

fect, whose original idea may be seen in the published section; and all must regret that his design has never been carried out. A proposal was once made by Barry, Reynolds, and other high-minded artists, to decorate the building, free of expense; but their offer was declined on grounds which could hardly have weight in the present day. Whilst the cathedral of St. Peter displays the accumulated enrichments of centuries in its interior, our own St. Paul's has not a single painting. Popery does not entirely consist of pomp and decoration; and it is to be hoped we have passed the time when men could be so led away from truth. Rather is painting a powerful instrument, in the hands of a true religion, for good. The best evidence that an improvement is in progress is observable in the altered character of our new churches. The church-commissioners had indeed tried their utmost to stem that progress, and have inundated the land with a multitude of cheap structures, to which the term Gothic is, in one sense, rightly applied. But we now hear of new painted windows for our cathedrals, and in the Temple Church decoration has been carried to an extraordinary extent.

There can hardly be a richer treat than Westminster Abbey affords in its epitaphs alone; and it must be allowed that its monuments, if not all displaying the originality of a Roubilliac, or the dexterous chiselling of a Chantrey, are at least interesting *per se*, as forming a complete history of the art of sculpture in England.

Though the greater part are remarkable, either from the individuals with whose names they are associated, from their epitaphs, or from their design, it must, as we have said, be regretted that, to erect some of the least interesting, architectural decorations of surpassing beauty have been ruthlessly sacrificed. How much better would it be, instead of multiplying such instances, to revive the monumental brasses, than which there can hardly be a more beautiful and expressive form of commemoration. The Dean of Chichester has adopted the painted window as a memorial, and thus has not lessened, but increased the beautiful effect of the cathedral.

Many of the epitaphs were written by men of high celebrity. That to Goldsmith was by Dr. Johnson, who shows his high admiration of his friend in the words "qui nullum fere scribendi genus non legit, nullum quod teneat non ornari." Four epitaphs are by Pope—those to Gay, Crayke, Withers, and Kneller. The last of these is much like the epitaph on Raphael by Cardinal Bembo, which ran thus:

"The cat his RAPHAEL, tunc quo aspexit, vinci  
Rerum magna Parens, et moriente mori."

The last lines of Kneller's epitaph,

"Living, great Nature fear'd he might outvie  
Her works; and, dying, fears herself may die."

might pass for a translation. The lines on Lord Mansfield's monument,

"Here Murray, long enough his country's pride,  
Is now no more than Tully, or than Hyde."

are also Pope's, with slight variation. The monument to Sir Palmes Fairbairn has an epitaph by Dryden, and that to Gray one by Mason.

The epitaph on Draiton's monument, said to have been written by Jonson, is worth preserving, as it will shortly be effaced:—"Michael Draiton, Esq., a memorable part of the age, exchanged his laurel for a crown of glory A.D. 1611."

"Doe, pious marble, let thy readers know  
What they and what their children owe  
To Draiton's name, whose sacred dust  
Wee recommend unto thy trust,  
Protect his memory, and preserve his story,  
Remaine a lasting monument of his glory,  
And when thy visitors shall disclaim  
To be the treasurer of his name,  
His name, that cannot fade, shall be  
An everlasting monument to thee."

The monument to Chaucer, erected about the time of Edward VI., has the character of decline which marked the architecture of that age; but even its association with the name of one who has the credit of being the father of poetry in England, has not prevented its wilful destruction. Near Chaucer's monument are deposited the remains of Denham, the poet; and near Mr. Henckell's chapel those of Beaumont, the dramatist; but neither have any memorial. In the nave are two monuments to the wives of Sir Samuel Morland, Bart., with inscriptions in the English, Greek, Hebrew, and Ethiopic languages. In all ages, whether from a want of power to express the virtues of the deceased, or otherwise, there has been a great loss of short epitaphs; and we find in the Abbey two singular examples.—On the grave of D'Avenant are the words, "O rare Sir William D'Avenant!" and on Jonson's monument, as well as upon his grave, "Oh rare Ben Jonson!" The name having erroneously the letter "h" inserted. This "affectation of antiquity in epigraphical inscription" is commented upon by Lord Byron in his notes to Childe Harold. He complains that we are often left in the dark as to the time in which the monument was erected, and have no means of ascertaining whether it was an actual tomb, or a simple tribute to a living hero. "Machiavelli's earth returned to whence it rose" affords an example.

"Tanto nomini nullum par elogium  
Necessest Machiavelli."

are the words on his monument in the church of Santa Croce. Lord Byron, in another note, gives the epitaph on Count Merc. "State, victor—heros calceat."

If, instead of the slabs and spiritless reliefs with which our cathedrals are patched in black and white, windows and pinnacles were restored, or unfinished portions completed, the same end would be attained as of old, when one good Christian gave the stone and another bequeathed money to erect the spire; and, instead of our pleasure being mingled with regret, we should look through "the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault" with no emotion but one of unqualified delight. E. H.

#### ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

At an ordinary meeting of the Institute, held on Monday evening, the 24th inst., Mr. George Smith, of Mersey-hall, in the chair, Mr. Bland-Hodgkiss was elected an associate. Mr. Matthew Habershon exhibited a Doric capital, and other architectural remnants, found at Mount Zion, 30 or 40 feet below the surface, when excavating for a church, which is about to be erected there. Mr. Scoles remarked that the capital resembled those he had seen in the valley of Jehoshaphat, and was probably not older than the time of our Saviour. The echinus was peculiarly straight. These relics were interesting, as being the only fragments in this country, connected with Jerusalem.

The hon. sec., Mr. Bailey, read the report of the council on the essays submitted in competition for the Institute medal. From this it appeared that three had been received, and that the council considered one of them sufficiently meritorious, as a careful compilation, to deserve the offered reward. One of the three was a verbal transcript from an Encyclopædia, and the council commented in strong terms on the author of the attempted imposition. For the Smeaton medallion no designs had been received in time. A set, signed "H., an associate," had been recently forwarded, which, if sent by the stated date, would probably have been rewarded.

The selected essay was then read. It gave the derivation and nature of slate, and traced its introduction and increased use in England. It was not employed in London before the end of the eighteenth century; Spafelds' Chapel was one of the earliest buildings slated. For some time after its introduction it cost from 2l. 15s. to 2l. 18s. per square. A square foot of slate weighing only 11½ lbs., while a square foot of tiling weighed 16½ lbs., it was found that lighter timbers might be employed in roofs; and this, with other circumstances, led to its constant use. Slates were at one time imported from France, but were found to be indifferent; and now Bangor slates are sent by us into that country. Its power of resisting damp was shown by the fact that the whitewash on many slate cisterns, which had been in use ten or fifteen years, was in no degree bulged, which would have been the case if any dampness had exuded. It was too soft for paving, but well adapted by its strength for balconies. Slate, 1 inch thick, was equal to Portland stone 3 inches thick. It might be advantageously used to make buildings fire-proof. Without following the essay further, suffice it to say it contained a fair amount of information, and was a praiseworthy effort for a student, but certainly was not of that character which the institute might expect, or were called on to reward with their medal.

The author was found to be Mr. S. J. Nicholl, of Argyll-place. Mr. Poynter, in a conversation on the subject which afterwards took place, mentioned that in Pembrokeshire slate was used for every thing. They made even posts and rails of it, of the same scantling as if of wood. The walls of buildings were of square blocks, rough-cast. Having a range of stables to build there, he had used rough blocks for the walls, but had made all the door and window-frames of worked slate. There was a prejudice against the use of squared blocks of slate without plastering them, on the ground that they admitted damp. This he thought singular, as slate was not absorbent, and was used for cisterns. He had found, however, that if there was the smallest hole in the slate, or if, as was often the case from the want of absorption, that the joints were not perfectly close, that the rain drove through; and this explained the origin of the prejudice. He obviated the difficulty by laying every block with the bed lightly inclining outwards.

Mr. Tite then made a number of observations, displaying, as what he says usually does, sound sense, and great knowledge, and urged on the younger members of the profession the importance of obtaining practical information, and of the study of construction. Notes bearing on these points they would find useful throughout their practice. He drew attention to what was called Horsham slate, but was in reality a limestone. There was no limit to its durability, but being very heavy, proper preparation was necessary for it; they must avoid the fashion of rafters 4 inches by 2½ inches when they used it. He had had experience of French slates; they were very light, and should be used on boards, not battens, for the wind would set on them. The French were in the habit of bedding them in plaster on the boarding, and this was a good arrangement. We should be careful how we altered any modes adopted in a country until we knew exactly all the requirements and peculiarities of the locality. A slate with the colour of Westmoreland slate, and at the price of Bangor, was a desideratum. In their specifications it was desirable to state weight per square of the slating required. Slates were now made so thin, that without this being specified the architect might not have power to obtain a sound covering. As to the use of slates to make buildings fire-proof, he did not consider that any slate would stand fire, and would not himself risk its employment for such a purpose. He would offer one caution in the use of non-absorbent materials, which should be borne in mind, and that was, for guard against the effect of condensation. In some of our cheap churches—too cheap churches, as he thought—the slating was sometimes made to form the ceiling. The external atmosphere kept this cold, and the result was the condensation of all the moisture which ascended to the roof. In one that he had seen, where iron beams were employed, the water dripped on the congregation to such an extent that an action was brought against the architect for forming an unsound roof. In a chapel built by himself, where the gallery was supported on iron beams, the condensation was so great as to form a positive drip at the lowest end of each beam. In exposed situations near the sea, if the walls were only nine inches thick, the external atmosphere condensed the internal moisture. What was wanted was a space to contain an internal atmosphere, so by that means rapid cooling was prevented. The meeting was then adjourned till the 10th of March.

#### BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

In reply to a formal application for leave to examine the various plans submitted to the committee, we received the following note:—"Sir,—I regret that I have not at present any instructions that will authorize my giving the permission you request to examine the plans submitted in competition."

"The plans have not been shown to any one of the Committee of Works, or of the Committee for General Purposes."

"By a resolution of the committee for general purposes, the committee of works was instructed not to allow the plans to be seen by any but members of that committee and myself, until they should have come to a decision; and since the decision, the exhibition has been restricted to the committee for general purposes."

"I will take care to lay your note before the committee at the first meeting, which, however, will not be for some days, and I will immediately inform you of the result. I shall have much pleasure in showing you the plans, if the committee so direct.—I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,  
"GEORGE STONOR GRIFITH,  
Assistant Secretary."

"Committee-room, Crosby-square,  
"February 20th, 1845."

The 27th, however, has passed (the day named for the return of the drawings to competitors), and no permission has been given. Far be it from us to impute motives which may not exist, but the general impression out of doors raised by this determination of the committee to prevent any examination, will unquestionably be, that their decision could not be justified. We protest